

Winston H. Hickox Agency Secretary California Environmental Protection Agency

Department of Toxic Substances Control

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Gray Davis Governor

THE REA II - SITE MITIGATION AUTHORITY AND EXPERTISE

The Registered Environmental Assessor II (REA II) has significant authority under existing statutes and regulations to serve an extensive role in environmental programs and site mitigation activities. The REA II is the only environmental manager and practitioner over whom a Cal/EPA office has direct authority, and whose areas of professional environmental expertise are determined by Cal/EPA.

The REA II is a qualified environmental professional who may manage and conduct site investigation, assessment and remediation work at schoolsites, Brownfields, or other potentially contaminated properties. The REA II registration differs from other registrations traditionally used in site investigation and cleanup work by being a strictly environmental registration managed and directed by a Cal/EPA office.

In the role of a "Private Site Manager," the REA II is authorized to supervise, manage and direct activities relating to the development of hazardous substance or hazardous waste site cleanup opinions using preliminary endangerment assessment procedures. These opinions include determining whether a significant release has occurred, and whether a response action is needed.

Regulations (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 19030 et seq.) describe the activities and evaluations that an REA II may perform as a project manager. An REA II:

- Determines the activities needed to adequately characterize hazardous waste or hazardous substance release sites;
- Conducts environmental assessments and investigations;
- Directs and performs site investigation and remediation activities;
- Evaluates site information and data and render opinions derived from that data:
- Defines the work required to reduce risk from contamination; and,
- Determines and certifies that all work necessary to reduce risk from contamination has been properly conducted and that all work has been completed.

Regulations specify that an REA II must meet certain performance standards when conducting, developing, performing or directing the following activities:

- Preliminary Endangerment Assessments;
- Remedial Investigations/Feasibility Studies;
- Remedial Design;
- Remedial Action;
- Remedial Action Plans:
- Corrective Action Plans:
- · Removal Action Workplans; and,
- Remedial Work.

The REA II is not permitted to claim the privileges of a Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) registrant, or the privileges of any other registration, certification or license unless the REA II holds that particular credential. Whether a particular activity requires professional registration typically can only be determined on a case-by-case basis. An REA II may obtain the assistance of registered subcontractors for the performance of any work requiring professional registration while performing environmental assessment and restoration activities, as long as the work is incidental to the business of the REA II. Any subcontractor's work, or the work performed by others, must be properly cited in any report prepared by the REA II. The REA program can assist registrants or interested parties in evaluating whether the activities of an REA II may be in an area reserved for other licensed professionals. The REA program will also disseminate useful information pertaining to the practice of other registered professionals to all REA II's.

In performing work activities, the REA II is charged to hold paramount the public health, safety and welfare, and to follow all applicable performance standards while conducting work activities. Regulations specify the performance standards for the work activities of an REA II. The REA program may randomly audit the work products of its registrants to ensure that all applicable performance standards are met. We will also investigate work-related complaints about registrants and will, if necessary, take disciplinary actions, or rescind the registration of an REA II whose work does not meet applicable performance standards.

For additional information about the program, its regulations, and applicable laws please review the other information on the REA program website http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/REA/index.html or contact the REA program at (916) 324-6881.